Statement

Main points of the recommendations made by NCW

The National Commission for Women has made the following main recommendations:—

(i) The words in connection with the marriage of said parties occurring in section 2 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 relating to the definition of dowry, may be deleted.

(ii) A penalty of imprisonment of not less than 3 years and fine of not less than Rs. 15,000/- may be introduced for the parents/relatives of the bride or bridegroom for non-maintenance of lists of presents under the Dowry Prohibition (Maintenance of Lists of Presents to the Bride and Bridegroom) Rules, 1985.

(iii) The penalty laid down in the said Act for giving dowry may be reduced to imprisonment of not less than one year and fine of not less than Rs. 15,000/- unless the person can prove that he was compelled to give dowry.

(iv) Amend section 6 of the said Act (dowry to be for the benefit of the wife or her heirs) in order to provide that in the event of the death of any woman, whether due to natural causes or otherwise, whether within 7 years or after 7 years of her marriage, any property to which she is entitled under the section will be transferred to her children or to her parents if she has no children, and not to her heirs.

(v) Empower the Service Provider or the Protection Officer functioning under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, under section 7 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, to lodge a complaint of commission of an offence.

(vi) The words 'soon before her death' occurring in sub-section (1) of section 304B IPC (Dowry death) may be replaced by the words 'anytime before her death' and any death occurring in the circumstances mentioned in the sub-section even after 7 years of marriage should be considered as dowry death. The minimum punishment laid down in sub-section (2) of section 304B IPC should be raised from 7 years to 10 years and death may be prescribed as the maximum penalty alternate to the existing penalty of imprisonment for life.

Death of girls due to pregnancy and early marriage

1074. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 1,000 girls continue to die every day in the country due to pregnancy related problems and early child marriage; and

(b) the steps Government has taken during the last three years to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the information received from Ministry of Health, the latest survey report of Registrar General of India (RGI-SRS 2001—03) published in the year 2006, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for India is 301 per 100,000 live births which translates into about 77,000 maternal deaths per year or in other words 211 maternal deaths per day.

(b) In order to bring a reduction in MMR, the Government of India is implementing the following key interventions all over the country which include:

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), for Institutional Delivery;
Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village;
Operationalising Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU);
Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving anetheric Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care;
Prevention and treatment of Anemia;
Organizing of Village Health & Nutrition Day at Anganwadi center;
Supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating women under the ICDS Scheme.

In order to prohibit child marriages, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) has been enforced w.e.f. 1.11.2007. Also, awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in this connection.

Short stay homes for women and girls

1075. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for Short Stay Homes for women and girls is being implemented in Goa;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme;

(c) the financial assistance given to the State/organizations since commencement of the scheme, year-wise; and

(d) the targets achieved, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are available on the website of the Ministry of Women and Child Development at www.wcd.nic.in.

(c) Amount released to Voluntary Organisations in Goa during the last five years under the scheme, which was initiated in the year 1969, is as under:

Year	Amount released
2002-2003	Rs. 3,50,197/-
2003-2004	Rs. 2,45,444/-
2004-2005	Rs. 3,87,390/-
2005-2006	Rs. 63,219/-
2006-2007	Rs. 2,92,433/-

(d) No State-wise targets are envisaged/set, since this is an ongoing scheme.

Status on malnutrition

1076. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the recent lancet study, there is no paucity of nutrition champions in the country, yet statistics on nutrition continue to be awful;